

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (previously presented) A working machine comprising:

a transmission case having a transmission mechanism accommodated therein, the transmission mechanism having an input shaft having a first longitudinal axis and an output shaft having a second longitudinal axis extending in a direction generally perpendicular to the first longitudinal axis;

a working unit mounted to a front portion or a side portion of the transmission case and connected to the output shaft of the transmission mechanism;

a working drive source connected to the input shaft of the transmission mechanism for driving the working unit via the transmission mechanism, the working drive source being mounted to an upper surface portion of the transmission case;

a traveling unit having at least one driving axle mounted to a side portion of the transmission case; and

an electric motor mounted to a side portion of the transmission case for driving the traveling unit.

2. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 1; wherein the working drive source comprises an engine, the working unit comprises a snow removing working section mounted to the front portion of the transmission case, and the traveling unit comprises a pair of traveling sections each having a driving axle rotationally mounted to a side portion of the transmission case and a crawler belt connected to the driving axles for rotation therewith; and wherein the transmission case is disposed between the pair of traveling sections.

3. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 1; wherein the transmission case comprises a part of a case of the electric motor.

4. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 2; wherein the transmission case comprises a part of a case of the electric motor.

5. (previously presented) A working machine comprising:

a transmission case having a transmission mechanism accommodated therein;

a working unit mounted to a front portion or a side portion of the transmission case and connected to the output shaft of the transmission mechanism;

a working drive source connected to the input shaft of the transmission mechanism for driving the working unit via the transmission mechanism, the working drive source being mounted to an upper surface portion of the transmission case;

a traveling unit having a driving axle mounted to a side portion of the transmission case; and

an electric motor mounted to a side portion of the transmission case for driving the traveling unit;

wherein the working drive source comprises a vertical engine having a downwardly-extending crankshaft, the working unit comprises a snow removing working section, the traveling unit comprises left and right crawler belts drivable by the electric motor via left and right driving wheels, and the snow removing working section is vertically pivotable about a central axis of axles of the left and right driving wheels together with the vertical engine and transmission mechanism;

wherein the transmission mechanism is disposed immediately below the vertical engine, the snow removing working section is disposed in front of the transmission mechanism, the left and right crawlers belts are disposed adjacent to and along left and right sides of the transmission mechanism, the left and right driving wheels and the electric motor are disposed adjacent to front end portions of the

crawler belts, and the crankshaft is disposed near and rearwardly of the central axis of the axles; and

wherein an overall center of gravity of the working machine is set between a central axis of the crankshaft and the central axis of the axles.

6. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 5; wherein the vertical engine has a cylinder section oriented toward a rear end of the working machine, and a body having a front surface disposed adjacent to a rear surface of the snow removing working section.

7. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 1; wherein the at least one driving axle of the traveling unit comprises a pair of driving axles mounted to side portions of the transmission case for undergoing rotation, the traveling unit further comprising a pair of driving wheels mounted on the respective driving axles for rotation therewith; and wherein the working unit, the working drive source and the transmission mechanism are vertically pivotable about a central axis of the driving axles of the traveling unit.

8. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 7; wherein the working drive source comprises a vertical engine having a downwardly-extending crankshaft connected to the input shaft of the transmission mechanism.

9. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 8; wherein an overall center of gravity of the working machine is set between a central axis of the crankshaft and the central axis of the driving axles.

10. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 1; wherein the at least one driving axle of the traveling unit comprises a pair of driving axles mounted to side portions of the transmission case for undergoing rotation, the traveling unit further comprising a pair of driving wheels mounted on the respective driving axles for rotation therewith and a pair of crawler belts driven by the driving wheels, the crawler belts having first end portions and second end portions disposed closer to the working unit than the first end portions; and wherein the driving wheels of the traveling unit and the working drive source are disposed adjacent to the second end portions of the crawler belts.

11. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 1; wherein the at least one driving axle of the traveling unit comprises a pair of driving axles mounted to side portions of the transmission case for undergoing rotation, the traveling unit further comprising a pair of driving wheels mounted on the respective driving axles for rotation therewith, an idle-wheel axle mounted to the

transmission case, and a pair of idle wheels mounted on the idle-wheel axle for relative rotation thereto; and wherein the working drive source has a crankshaft connected to the input shaft of the transmission mechanism and the electric motor has a motor shaft.

12. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 11; wherein a distance L2 between a central axis of the driving axles and a central axis of the crankshaft is about 1/3 of a distance L1 between the central axis of the driving axles and a central axis of the idle-wheel axle; wherein a distance L3 between the central axis of the driving axles and a line passing through a center of gravity of the working machine is about 1/2 the distance L2; and wherein a distance L4 between the central axis of the driving axles to a central axis of the motor shaft is about 1/2 the distance L2.

13. (previously presented) A working machine comprising: a transmission case; a transmission mechanism disposed in the transmission case and having an input shaft and an output shaft; a working drive source mounted on the transmission case and connected to the input shaft of the transmission mechanism; a working unit driven by the working drive source during a working state of the working unit for performing a working operation, the working unit being mounted

on the transmission case and connected to the output shaft of the transmission mechanism; at least one electric motor mounted on the transmission case; and a traveling unit driven by the electric motor for transporting the working machine during the working operation, the traveling unit being mounted on the transmission case and having at least one driving axle; wherein the working unit, the working drive source and the transmission mechanism are pivotable about a central axis of the driving axle of the traveling unit.

14. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 13; wherein the input and output shafts of the transmission mechanism have respective longitudinal axes disposed generally perpendicular to one another.

15. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 13; wherein the working drive source comprises a vertical engine having a crankshaft connected to the input shaft of the transmission mechanism.

16. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 15; wherein an overall center of gravity of the working machine is set between a central axis of the crankshaft and the central axis of the driving axle.

17. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 13; wherein the traveling unit further comprises a driving wheel mounted on the driving axle for rotation therewith and a crawler belt driven by the driving wheel, the crawler belt having a first end portion and a second end portion disposed closer to the working unit than the first end portion; and wherein the driving wheel and the working drive source are disposed adjacent to the second end portion of the crawler belt.

18. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 13; wherein the traveling unit further comprises a driving wheel mounted on the driving axle for rotation therewith, an idle-wheel axle mounted to the transmission case, and an idle wheel mounted on the idle-wheel axle for relative rotation thereto; and wherein the working drive source has a crankshaft connected to the input shaft of the transmission mechanism and the electric motor has a motor shaft.

19. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 18; wherein a distance L2 between a central axis of the driving axle and a central axis of the crankshaft is about 1/3 of a distance L1 between the central axis of the driving axle and a central axis of the idle-wheel axle;



wherein a distance L3 between the central axis of the driving axle and a line passing through a center of gravity of the working machine is about 1/2 the distance L2; and wherein a distance L4 between the central axis of the driving axle to a central axis of the motor shaft is about 1/2 the distance L2.

20. (previously presented) A working machine as claimed in claim 19; wherein the center of gravity of the working machine is set between the central axis of the crankshaft and the central axis of the driving axle.